

**Southern Area Incident Command Team****ROMBO MTN FIRE UPDATE – August 22, 2007****Bitterroot National Forest**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Fire Information 406-821-0082

Date: August 22, 2007 4 p.m.

**Rombo Mountain Fire Remains Calm Today**

West Fork, MT – Due to moderate relative humidity, cooler temperatures, and relatively light winds, the Rombo Mountain Fire continues to exhibit minimal fire behavior and spread today. The dampening effects of light rains received Monday continue to linger. Some isolated torching is occurring where heavy down and dead fuels were concentrated under tree canopies. Helicopter bucket drops are being used as needed to cool hot spots primarily on the northwest side of the fire in the Piquett Creek Drainage. Air tanker retardant drops are yet possible this afternoon to slow down the fire from spreading to the northwest in the Piquett Creek drainage. Hand crews and engines continue to search for spot fires in the Laird Creek and Warm Springs Creek drainages. However, an aerial reconnaissance flight earlier today did not note any new spot fires. Structure protection measures and assessments are ongoing in the south and north West Fork Road areas. The fire was caused by lightning on July 31 and is located 16 miles south of Conner, MT and 4 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Lake.

All existing Stage I Pre-Evacuation Notices/Alerts remain in effect. Also, the existing area closure order remains in effect. Maps and area closure descriptions are available at Forest offices, and on line at [www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot). The Forest is under Stage 2 fire restrictions which prohibit campfires and smoking other than in a vehicle, building or cleared area due to the high fire danger.

Though there are a number of active fires with necessary closures, most of the Bitterroot National Forest is still open for hiking and fishing. Contact your nearest Ranger District Office or the Bitterroot National Forest Supervisor's Office for current recreation activity opportunities.

A total of 251 personnel are assigned to the fire and additional firefighting crews, aerial resources, and equipment to provide support have been requested, but may not be available due to the large number of fires burning in Montana and other states at this time.

The Southern Area "Blue Team" is establishing an Incident Command Post in Wisdom today to be more centrally located to the three fires that make up the Bitterroot/Beaverhead-Deerlodge Complex (BBD Complex). These are the Rombo Mountain Fire, Rat Creek Fire, and Pattengail Fire. Rombo Mountain firefighters and support will remain at the 2000 Llama Pasture on West Fork Road.

Public and firefighter safety are the highest priority the Southern Area "Blue Team" and Bitterroot National Forest take into consideration when planning and implementing fire management actions.

For additional information call Rombo Mountain Fire information at 821-0082 or visit the website, [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org).

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